(d) whether it is a fact that the National Highways Authority of India has proposed four-lanes Road (Highway) from Jammu to Srinagar as a part of the National Highway Project; and

(e) if so, the quantum of amount earmarked for the years 2000 and 2001 and by when this project would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) As part of National Highway Development Project (NHDP), the North-South corridor connecting Srinagar to Kanyakumari is proposed to be developed into four-lanes.

(b) and (c) The project has neither been started from Kanyakumari end nor from Kashmir end. The work has been taken up on some intermediate sections. Further the work on this corridor will be taken up for implementation in phases, depending upon the traffic and availability of right-of-way.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) An amount of Rs. 20 crore has been earmarked for the current year for section km 80 to 97.2 of NH 1A. The entire North-South corridor component of NHDP is targeted to be completed by December 2007.

Construction of National Highways in North-Eastern Region

3481. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the effective steps taken by Government for construction and maintenance of various National Highways in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) the estimated cost involved therein; and

(c) the details of the funds spent so far during the last three years on construction and maintenance of NHs in the North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) For development of various National Highways in the North Eastern region, Annual Plans are prepared and the works are identified based on their *inter se* priority of requirements and overall allocation. An amount equal to 10% of the gross budgetary support for the Ministry is allocated

for NH works in the North Eastern region. A crash programme for improvement of riding quality of the NHs has also been started since 1999-2000 and an aggregate length of about 616 km has so far been taken up in the region under this programme. For development and maintenance of the NHs, an amount of Rs. 383.77 crore has been allocated for the year 2001-2002.

(b) The estimated cost of the on-going development works is about Rs. 1729 crore.

(c) Details of funds spent on construction and maintenance of NHs in the North Eastern region during the last three years are given below:

Year	Construction (Rs. crore)	Maintenance (Rs. crores)
1998-1999	120.58	68.97
1999-2000	168.71	77.06
2000-2001	214.68	89.73

World Bank assistance for Development of roads in NER

3482. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of financial assistance provided by the World Bank during the last three years for the development of roads and National Highways and other transport infrastructure facilities in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the funds utilised so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI): (a) This Ministry is primarily concerned with development of National Highways and roads other than National Highways are the responsibility of the respective State Governments. No financial assistance has been provided by the World Bank during the last 3 years for the development of National Highways in the North Eastern Region.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.